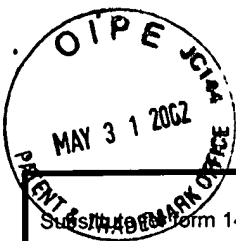


<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				<b>Application Number</b>	09/981,337
Sheet 1 of 5				<b>Filing Date</b>	October 16, 2001
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Shannon, Donald T.
				<b>Art Unit</b>	3738
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unknown
				<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	VAS-5041DIV2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If known)			
BP	AA	US-3,425,418	04/14/1964	Chvapil et al.	
BP	AB	US-3,490,975	10/10/1966	Lightwod et al.	
BP	AC	US-4,130,904	12/26/1978	Whalen	
I	AD	US-4,332,035	06/01/1982	Mano	
I	AE	US-4,713,070	12/15/1987	Mano	
BP	AF	US-4,739,762	04/00/1988	Palmaz	
↑	AG	US-4,743,252	05/10/1988	Martin, Jr.	
	AH	US-4,768,507	09/06/1988	Fischell et al.	
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	AM	US-5,098,625	03/24/1992	Huang	
	AN	US-5,123,917	06/23/1992	Lee	
	AO	US-5,163,951	11/17/1992	Pinchuk et al.	
	AP	US-5,211,658	05/18/1993	Clouse	
	AQ	US-5,234,457	08/10/1993	Anderson	
	AR	US-5,282,860	02/01/1994	Matsuno	
	AS	US-5,366,472	11/22/1994	Hillstead	
	AT	US-5,383,925	01/24/1995	Schmitt	
	AU	US-5,389,106	02/14/1995	Tower	
↓	AV	US-5,411,550	05/00/1995	Herweck et al	
BP	AW	US-5,464,419	11/07/1995	Glastra	

\*Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

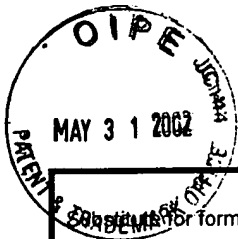


Subsidiary Form 1449A/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/981,337
Sheet 2 of 5				Filing Date	October 16, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Shannon, Donald T.
				Art Unit	3738
				Examiner Name	Unknown
				Attorney Docket Number	VAS-5041DIV2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If known)			
BP	AX	US-5,464,449	11/07/1995	Ryan	
↑	AY	US-5,503,636	04/02/1996	Schmitt et al.	
	AZ	US-5,507,767	04/16/1996	Maeda et al.	
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	BI	US-5,575,818	11/19/1996	Pinchuk	
	BJ	US-5,591,195	01/07/1997	Tajero et al.	
	BK	US-5,591,222	01/07/1997	Susawa et al.	
✓	BL	US-5,591,223	01/07/1997	Lock et al.	
BP	BM	US-5,591,226	01/07/1997	Trerotola et al.	
BP	BN	US-5,389,106	02/14/1995	Tower	
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↑	BP	US-5,653,747	08/00/1997	Dereume et al	
	BQ	US-5,667,523	09/00/1997	Bynon et al	
	BR	US-5,674,241	10/00/1997	Bley et al.	
✓	BS	US-5,674,277	10/00/1997	Freitag	
BP	BT	US-5,683,448	11/00/1997	Cragg	

\*Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard SL 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard SL 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				<b>Application Number</b>	09/981,337
Sheet 3 of 5				<b>Filing Date</b>	October 16, 2001
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Shannon, Donald T.
				<b>Art Unit</b>	3738
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unknown
				<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	VAS-5041DIV2

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If known)			
BP	BU	US-5,693,087	12/00/1997	Parodi	
↑	BV	US-5,700,285	12/23/1997	Myers et al	
	BW	US-5,723,004	03/00/1998	Dereume et al	
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BP	CB	US-6,042,605	03/28/2000	Martin et al.	

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>8</sup>
		Office Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (If known)				
BP	CC	WO	82/01467		05/27/1982			
↑	CD	WO	88/00813		02/11/1988			
	CE	WO	92/16166		10/01/1992			
	CF	WO	94/040096		03/03/1994			
	CG	WO	94/24961		11/10/1994			
	CH	WO	95/05132		02/23/1995			
	CI	WO	95/26695		10/12/1995			
↓	CJ	WO	96/07370		03/14/1996			
BP	CK	WO	96/25897		08/29/1996			

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



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				Application Number	09/981,337
Sheet 4 of 5				Filing Date	October 16, 2001
				First Named Inventor	Shannon, Donald T.
				Art Unit	3738
				Examiner Name	Unknown
				Attorney Docket Number	VAS-5041DIV2

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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (If known)				
BP	CL	WO	96/28115		09/19/1996			
BP	CM	WO	96/29955		10/03/1996			
BP	CN	WO	97/21401		06/19/1997			
BP	CO	EP	0,492,481		07/01/1992			
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	CQ	EP	1,46794		06/14/1989			
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BP	CU	GB	2,281,865		03/02/1995			
BP	CV	EP	2,325,43		08/19/1997			
BP	CW	FR	2,702,954		09/30/1994			
BP	CX	DE	3,918,736 ✓		08/06/1989			
BP	CY	EP	5,568,50		08/25/1993			
BP	CZ	EP	5,795,23		01/19/1994			
BP	DA	EP	1,771,67		04/09/1986			

**OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	
Examiner Signature	Brian Pellegrino		Date Considered 5/2/03

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



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				<b>Application Number</b>	09/981,337
				<b>Filing Date</b>	October 16, 2001
				<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Shannon, Donald T.
				<b>Art Unit</b>	3738
				<b>Examiner Name</b>	Unknown
				<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	VAS-5041DIV2
<b>Sheet</b>	5	<b>of</b>	5		

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